

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

In the abstract

The abstract is amended to change the heading for the abstract from "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION" to "ABSTRACT."

Claim objections

Claim 1 is presently objected to as being vague and indefinite. In particular, the Examiner finds the phrases "a rotatable neck interconnected the handle and the body" and "a rotation radius less than that of the handle" to be unclear. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the relationship between the neck, the handle and the body. Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly describe the relationship between dimensions of the neck and the handle. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4 presently stand rejected as being anticipated by Clavin (U.S. 5,754,412). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention. Claim 1 recites a standoff connector having, in a single unitary piece or structure, a cylindrical body, a base at the bottom of the cylindrical body, a neck extending from the top of the body, and a handle disposed at the top of the neck. Support for the unitary structure of the standoff connector is found in the second paragraph of page 5 of the specification. Additionally, support for the cylindrical body is found in the first paragraph of page 5 of the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that Clavin fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation required by claim 1, because Clavin fails to disclose or suggest a standoff

connector having a cylindrical body, and Clavin fails to disclose or suggest a standoff connector formed in a single, unitary piece.

"A claim is anticipated *only if each and every element* as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). "The *identical invention* must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989) (emphasis added). The *elements must be arranged as required by the claim*. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Clavin discloses a standoff connector that is comprised of at least two pieces. The Clavin connector "includes a body 11 and a stud 12 for sliding insertion into the body." (Clavin, col. 2, lines 18-19). The body has a base and a trunk portion extending upward from the base, the trunk portion corresponding to the body recited in claim 1 of the present invention. The trunk portion of the Clavin connector is not cylindrical. In fact, no part of the body of the Clavin connector is cylindrical. "The trunk is made noncircular to that it will not rotate in the opening in the panel." (Clavin, col. 2, lines 45-50).

In the present invention, the body of the standoff connector is made cylindrical *precisely so that it can rotate* in an opening in a circuit board or panel. Clavin not only discloses a non-cylindrical body, but Clavin also teaches that a cylindrical body is undesirable because rotation of the Clavin connector is to be prevented. Therefore, Clavin neither discloses nor suggests a standoff connector having a cylindrical body.

It is respectfully submitted that, because Clavin fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation required by claim 1, Clavin fails to anticipate claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

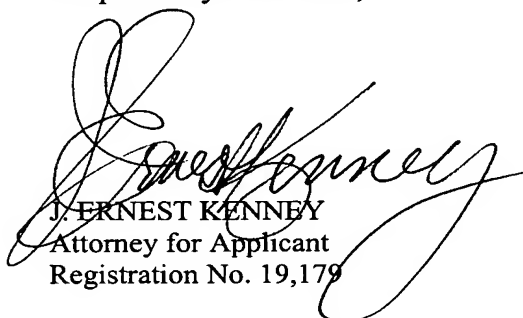
In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-4 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC  
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176  
Phone: (703) 683-0500

Date: October 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



J. ERNEST KENNEY  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 19,179